

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13 and 44-55 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 12 and 13 are amended, and claims 44-55 are added. Support for the amendments to claim 1, as well as for added claims 44 and 55, may be found in accordance with the following table:

Feature Recited in Claim 1	Support
"each site system comprising: an electronic whiteboard ... and an authentication unit"	Original claim 5
"a site server configured ..."	Original claim 5
"a shared workspace server configured to ..."	Paragraph [0089] of the published Application No. 2004/0128354 and Fig. 3
"each site system provides ..."	Figs. 6 and 8
"when a plurality of conference participants logs into one site system ..."	Figs. 9 and 10
"when a plurality of conference participants logs into different site systems ..."	Figs. 20-23
"as a response to a file reference request ..."	Fig. 50

No new matter is added. Claims 2, 5 and 14-43 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer thereof, the subject matter recited in those claims. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8, 10-21, 23, 25, 27-29 and 31-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0014488 to Dalal in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0158745 to Katz, and further in view of Official Notice; rejects claims 7, 9, 22, 24 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dalal, Katz and Official Notice, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0178833 to Kisliakov; and rejects claims 30 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dalal, Katz and Official Notice, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,951,642 to Onoe. These rejections are moot with respect to canceled claims 2, 5 and 14-43, and respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-13. Further, to the extent that the added claims 44-55

correspond to the rejected claims, the following discussion explains how the added claims also distinguish the applied references.

On page 3, the Office Action acknowledges that Dalal does not disclose, among other features, that upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, the shared workspace server establishes ... synchronization between the first and second site systems. The Office Action asserts that Katz supplies the missing subject matter. Katz does not disclose that when a plurality of conference participants logs into different site systems, the shared workspace server established a session between the different site systems, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 44 and 55.

Katz discloses that people can communicate using a discussion board 1810, an instant messenger 1812 and a voice chat feature 1814 (paragraph [0062]). Paragraph [0062], and the remainder of Katz, does not disclose, however, the timing of the connection between various users and Katz. Thus, Katz does not disclose the timing, specifically recited in the independent claims, that the shared workspace server establishes a session between the different site systems when a plurality of conference participants logs into different site systems, as recited in the independent claims. Nor does Katz disclose the various other more detailed features now recited in the independent claims.

Official Notice, Kisliakov and Onoe are not applied in any manner that would overcome the above-identified shortfalls in the application of Dalal and Katz, the subject matter recited in claim 1.

In view of the above, the combinations of applied references would not have suggested the combinations of features recited in independent claims 1, 44 and 55. Thus, the combinations of applied references would not have suggested the combinations of features recited in dependent claims 3, 4, 6-13 and 45-54 for at least the respective dependence of

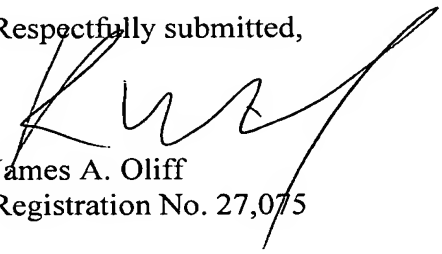
these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejections of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-13 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13 and 44-55 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination  
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: October 6, 2009

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